an amount has to be spent, they don't have any idea about the largeness or the smallness of the question, what they think must be had, will be asked for and usually used to be granted. Hereafter it is going to be a period of trial and travail for the Government if they will not study their problems properly, if they do not think out the question properly, if they do not make the motion in the manner a motion has to be made and if they do not react to the suggestions that are made from this side of the house. I warn the Government, Sir, that it is going to be a period of travail for them. No amount will be granted unto them to be wasted. This money is had into your treasuries by the sweat of the brow of the agriculturist who is drowning under grinding poverty of ages. There is no use, Sir, in looking at the villages from the cars through their windows. One has to be in their midst, one has to know their real condition if one is to work for improving their condition, unless the Government are prepared to do things like that, certainly things will not be easy. I oppose this demand.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Developement):* One or two points raised by the Hon. Member Mr. Krishnan Ezhuthassan, regarding the supply of food, clothing and other things to the poor patients can be answered by stating that the Department is doing that now. I cannot say to what extent, the department is supplying, clothing, food and kerosine to poor patients. Then regarding the question of nursing the patients who are attacked by small-pox, of course, I must admit that large scale arrangements are not made for nursing them, with the hope and expectation that their relations will do so.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Are there any arrangements?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* There are some sheds and those are taken to the sheds who are looked after there.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* How many such sheds are there?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Developement);* There are number of sheds in the Municipal areas, but not in village areas.

There are people who cannot be looked after in their houses, such people are brought over or taken over to the sheds where they will be looked after. In the houses, no doubt we have made no arrangements for looking after the patients and nursing them because that will involve large expenditure and if it is found necessary.....

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oroakam):* Is it the expenditure that stands in the way?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* It is one and we must get proper nurses also. It is an epidemic and people will not be easily forth-comming to attend on such patients. Therefore, as far as the Government is concerned we can give the assurance that all necessary steps will be taken by the Government to prevent the spread of the disease as well as to stop it. Of course it will not be possible to Government to give an assurance as required by the Hon. Member for Wadakancheri this moment, this hour and all that—Government can give only an assurance that they will take all possible precautions to see that this scourge is prevented and removed. I can assure the Hon. Member that I along with the other members of the Government are anxious to see that this disease is once and for all eradicated from the state and if possible prevent its recurrence. Of course, the Hon. Member's experience as also my experience will certainly be utilised but there must be some time for that. I hope having that experience I may utilise that experience for tackling this question also. With this observation I hope the Hon. Members will be pleased to sanction this allotment.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Can the Government give an assurance that proper sanitary and clothing arrangements will be made for all the poor patients?

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* We will try.

Mr. President: The Hon: Minister has closed the debate with his reply.

Mr. V. R. Krishnan Ezhuthassan *(Oorakam):* Sir, I do not press my opposition.

Demands put and carried

26. 19. Sanitation and conservancy-Cleaning charges (Cranganur)

27. 19. Sanitation and conservancy-Dearness allowance

28. 19. Sanitation and conservancy-Rent

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Developemnt):* I rise to move the additional allotments of Rs. 350, Rs. 1,418 and Rs. 24, under "19-Sanitation and Conservancy-(Cranganur)". The pay of the scavengers was enhanced from Rs. 10, to Rs. 12 with effect from 1st Chingam

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1121 and the dearness allowance of the coolies was raised from Rs. 10 to Rs. 16 with effect from Ist Karkadagam 1120. As these enhancements were sanctioned after the scrutiny of the budget proposals for 1121, the expenditure required at the enhanced rates was not provided for in the current year's budget. An additional allotment of Rs. 350 under "cleaning charges" and Rs. 1,418 under "Dearness Allowance" has become necessary.

Also the rent of the Sanitary Office building, Cranganur, was raised from Rs. 6 to 8 per mensem with effect from Ist Edavam 1120, thus necessitating a provision of Rs. 96 under "rent for the current year" against Rs. 72 provided for in the budget. An additional allotment of Rs. 24 is therefore necessary under this head. No reappropriation is found possible. I request that the amounts may be granted.

CUT MOTION No. 2

Raising the pay of Scavangers

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Vadakkancchri):* I move that the amount of Rs. 350 under "19—Sanitation and Conservancy and cleaning charges" be reduced by Re. 1 as stated here on the order paper to inquire of the Hon'ble Minister whether his promise made on the floor of the House to favourably consider the question of raising properly the pay of scavengers has been carried out and if not to press upon them to carry out his promise. Regarding the first part I made enquiries myself and I have found out to the Credit of the Hon'ble Minister I am happy to say, Sir, that the promise that he gave on the floor of this House on 30th July 1945 in reply to the suggestion of mine that the pay of these persons engaged in that particular work, not of a very pleasing nature, be raised, has been carried out to some extent. I put forward the suggestion that they (scavengers) be given at least Rs. 30 per mensem but to be modest, sacrifising their interest, though it be, even going to that extent, to be modest, I would even be satisfied if you make it at least Rs. 20 per mensem. The occassion then was for a supplementary demand to raise the pay of some scavengers originally standing at Rs. 9 to Rs. 10 —16 annas for 30 days the Government wanted to give—We did grant that. We also pointed out the niggardly way in which these persons are dealt with. Then also I suggested if not Rs. 30 at least Rs. 20 should be given. And a suitable reaction. I cannot say, but there was reaction I am prepared to say, and for that I congratulate the Hon'ble Minister who has reacted in such a short time by raising the pay from Rs. 10 to 12. There is progress indeed, Sir,—formerly from 9 to 10, now from 10 to 12. We congratulate the Government sincerely for what they have done. But we also note the littleness, the smallness and the niggardliness of the response. Therefore we appeal through this cut motion to raise their pay to the level that is expected of you, that is demanded by us. Understand the problem, that is for doing the particular work of the scavenger if we failed to pay living wages what will happen. It will probably be answered that at present with Rs. 12 the scavenger gets Rs. 28 because there is a dearness allowance of Rs. 16 raised from Rs. 10. But that is dearness allowance, that is not pay. The pay itself must be sufficient to meet both ends meet in normal times. Therefore, considering the nature of the work that they do, considering the class of society from which they come from—the lowest strata,—I am not refering communities and castes, the poorest of the poor—considering all that there must be a more suitable reaction. Raising their pay from Rs. 10 to Rs. 12 is not becoming of the Government; if it had been from Rs. 10 to 15, I would have waited for another year to see whether that would again be raised to Rs. 20. Now that they have raised it up only to Rs. 12 their hands must be forced. It is only a sort of innoculation that is administered on the Government to see that quicker reaction follows to the benefit of the poor suffering worker. I hope there will be suitable reaction and I pray for it.

Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):* As has been admitted by the Hon'ble Member for Vadakkancheri when the question was raised about the lowness of the pay of the scavenger Government tried to raise it by Rs. 2 and the present pay is as he said Rs.12 and he gets also Rs. 16 as dearness allowance; so he gets also Rs. 28 in all. I do admit to the pay of the scavengers, especially when the kind of work that they are doing is considered, is rather low. But then when it is the question of revising the pay of menial servants many other considerations have to be taken into account. I will bestow my earnest attention on the matter and see whether I can increase the pay of the scavengers. With this assurance I hope the Hon'ble Member will be satisfied.

Mr. Jos. K. Verghese *(Trichur-South):* On a point of information, Sir.

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